

Farragut Presbyterian Church



1st Sunday of Christmas - Faithful

December 27, 2020

~The Gathering~

Greeting

Rev. Matt Nieman

Prelude

O Morning Star! How Fair and Bright
Tami Newsom, organ

J.S. Bach

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Call to Worship

There is good news of great joy for all!

Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord.

Now we have seen the saving love of the Lord,

the glory of God's people and a light to all.

Let us worship God

Hymn #22

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;

Ye, who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,

God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;

Seek the great desire of nations; Ye have seen His natal star:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,

Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

Text: James Montgomery, 1816, 1825 and *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857. Music: Henry Thomas Smart, 1867
The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press. Public domain.

Prayer of Confession

God our Savior, we confess that we fail to live in your light. You reveal your saving love, but we hide your love from others. You claim us as your children, but we do not claim you as our God. Forgive us, God of grace. Let your will be done in our lives so that we may live in peace according to your word; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(please continue in silent prayer)

Declaration of Forgiveness

The Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

~The Word~

Prayer for Illumination

As you led Simeon to embrace the infant Jesus, guide us, Holy Spirit, by your gracious light that we may welcome your saving Word. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148

Dr. Angela Batey, psalmist

Colin Mawby

Refrain: Praise the Lord from the heavens and praise him in the heights.

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights.
Praise him, all you his angels; praise him, all his host. *Refrain*

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you stars of light.
Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. *Refrain*

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and birds on the wing; *Refrain*

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;
Young men and women, old and young together;
let them praise the name of the Lord. *Refrain*

For his name only is exalted, his splendor above earth and heaven.
He has raised up the horn of his people and praise for all his faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. *Refrain*

From *New Psalms for Common Worship*, Editor/Arranger Colin Mawby, Publisher: Kevin Mayhew
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Second Scripture Reading: Luke 2:22-40

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

“Weird, But Faithful”

Rev. Matt Nieman

~The Response~

Affirmation of Faith (Adapted from the *Confession of 1967*, 9.27)

The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness through the Holy Scriptures, which are received and obeyed as the word of God written.

The Anthem

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

Gustav Holst

Poem by Christina Rossetti
Dr. Angela Batey, soprano

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan; earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak mid-winter, a stable-place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breast full of milk and a manger full of hay.
Enough for Him, whom angels fall down before, the ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him; give my heart.

Call for the Offering

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

~The Sending~

Hymn #29

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Go Tell It

***Refrain:* Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain***

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth. *Refrain***

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain***

Text: Stanzas, John W. Work II (1872-1925). Music: African-American spiritual, Arr. John W. Work III, 1940, Harm. and adapt. Melva Wilson Costen © 1989. All rights reserved.
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Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Gloria

Brown

Tami Newsom, organ

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If you would like the church office to record your attendance today, you can:

- scan this QR Code and click on the generated google doc link or
- go to <https://forms.gle/4frMSP5wWS33g7Td6> or
- email the office at office@fpcn.org

Continuing through the month of January,
[FPC worship will be online only](#)
(no indoor, in-person worship) due to the continuing
rise in coronavirus cases in our region.

If the weather allows,
outdoor worship will be held at 11:00.



A big thank you to all who participated in our annual Christmas sponsoring for **Sunset Gap**. We sponsored 30 children this year. Your gifts will truly make for a special Christmas for these families. Sunset Gap is sponsoring about 200 children this year; requests were still coming in when we made our delivery .



The area Presbyterian Churches in partnership with Edward Jones will be constructing a **Habitat for Humanity** home in Knoxville beginning on March 20, 2021. Habitat of Knoxville needs volunteers from the area churches to help in the construction of this home along with volunteers from Edward Jones. Work will be done on Saturdays beginning March 20, 2021. You can work whatever number of days or time your schedule allows. There will be a pre-construction Zoom meeting on January 14 from 2:00-3:00 pm for anyone interested. If you are interested in volunteering your time in this worthwhile project, you are asked to contact either Buck Jones

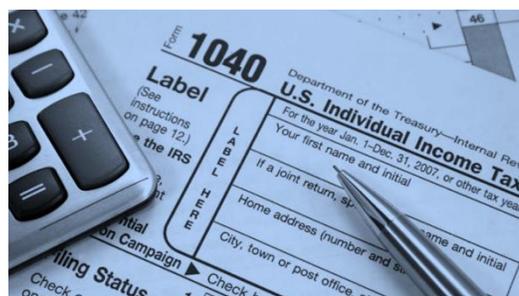
(buck@utk.edu) or Wayne Walls (wwalls97@aol.com) so we can turn in your name to Habitat and pass on the link to the January 14th Zoom meeting.

2020 Year-End Giving Reminders

To be counted as a 2020 contribution:

- Checks or cash must be received at FPC or mailed items postmarked **by 12/31/20**.
- Donations by credit card are deductible in the year the donor makes the charge (transaction posting date).
- ACH, EFT, stock transfers or other online donations are deductible in the year the bank transfers the stock or funds to FPC. Please make sure your online giving is initiated by Monday, Dec. 28th in time for the transaction to post on Thurs, Dec. 31, 2020. The donation confirmation page on our website will confirm the date your account is debited for online giving transactions.

Don't file your 2020 tax return before receiving your FPC 2020 year-end giving statement, so that you have IRS-compliant documentation of any gifts of cash or checks to FPC that are \$250 or more. Year-end donations statements will be mailed by Jan 30th, 2021. Also, the IRS reminds taxpayers who **don't** itemize deductions, you may take a charitable deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions made in 2020 to qualifying organizations. The law changed in this area due to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.



This Week at FPC!

Sun, Dec 27	11:00 a.m. (outdoor) Sunday Worship		
Mon, Dec 28	All ****	week ****	CEP Closed/ Winter Break Christmas Holiday/Church Office Closed Lectio Divina/Zoom
Thurs, Dec 31	11:00 12:00	a.m. p.m.	New Year's Eve/Office closes at noon Thursday Night Bible Study/Zoom
Fri, Jan 01	7:00 ****	p.m. ****	New Year's Day/Church Office Closed



Sunday School at 10:05 a.m.

Class	Room	Topic
Pastor Matt's Class	Zoom/ and Library	Pastor Matt's Prayer and Bible Study Class will resume at 10 a.m. on January 10, 2021
Adult Bible Study Class	Room A	We use <i>The Present Word</i> . Our winter lesson book looks at God's call throughout the New Testament as a way to explore our own calls. The three units focus on Jesus' heritage (Matthew), Jesus' call (other Gospels), and faithful women (a mix of Gospels and Epistles). Within the overall theme, each lesson stands alone, and we'd love to have you join us any week you're able.
Monday Connection	Zoom/ and Parlor	This class is studying <i>A New Reformation</i> , by author Rob Fuquay. This book will introduce you to the life of Martin Luther and two important themes of the Reformation he sparked: the centrality of Scripture and the power of God's grace.